

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF TESS MANALO-VENTRESCA

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to honor the extraordinary life and service of Tess Manalo-Ventresca. Ms. Manalo-Ventresca died on Tuesday, July 12th, 2005 of complications from heart surgery. I wish to offer my sincere condolences to her husband Joel Ventresca, her family and friends.

Tess Manalo-Ventresca's passing is a loss for the people of the 12th Congressional district. Tess was an extraordinary human being, one we all can look up to in hopes of serving our community as selflessly as she did. For the past 30 years Tess played a vital role in the Bay Area community, volunteering in the Haight Ashbury, the Tenderloin and the Sunset districts of San Francisco. She donated her time to numerous causes, from helping local youths to assisting underserved communities, to promoting small, local businesses and neighborhood safety. Most recently she was a volunteer with Experience Corps at the Sunset Beacon Center. For the past five years she participated in this program, which places older adult volunteers in public schools to provide tutoring for children in need.

Ms. Manalo-Ventresca never looked for accolades, no matter how richly deserved; nevertheless they were showered upon her. Earlier this year, she was named California Woman of the Year by the California State Assembly and was chosen to be an Asian Pacific American 2005 Local Hero by KQED. In April she was selected for a MetLife Foundation Older Volunteers Enrich America Award.

Just last April my wife Annette and I met with Tess. I could not then, and can not now, express adequately the appreciation I have for the incredible work she did throughout her lifetime. The Sunset, the Bay Area and the country need more people like Tess. To the very end Tess was working on projects to help children live up to their potential and to improve the neighborhoods in which we live.

Tess helped give children a brighter future, a gift that will live on with us forever. The joy she brought to life will never be forgotten.

TO HONOR THE RECEIPT OF THE ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JON BRUMBAUGH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary service and achievement of Private First Class Jon Brumbaugh, a

former resident of the Chautauqua County City of Jamestown, upon receiving the Army Achievement Medal.

Brumbaugh, a graduate of Jamestown High School was awarded this honor for meritorious achievement while serving as a Heavy Armor Specialist during JRTC Rotation 05-05. His leadership and ability to accomplish missions made PFC Brumbaugh a vital part of his infantry division.

PFC Brumbaugh began his time in the Army in October of 2003. Due to several outstanding characteristics, he became known as a team leader and gained multiple comments from officers, thus allowing him to move up the chain of command. In February of 2004 Jon went to Airborne School, where he received his Wings upon graduation.

Currently, Jon is assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, known as the 4th ID, B Company 2-8 INS. Part of Jon's duties involve being assigned to a Bradley Fighting Vehicle where he is second in command of his section. Jon is stationed at Fort Hood where he resides with his wife and their two sons.

HONORING THE FLIGHT FOR LIFE TEAM OF COLORADO

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tremendously dedicated and talented group of professionals who make up the St. Anthony Hospitals Flight for Life team of Colorado.

Specifically, I want to thank and honor the flight crew that allowed me to join them on Saturday, June 18th: Flight Nurse Hollie Seeley, Medic Vance Silvia, and Pilot Jeff Warner. Having the opportunity to spend a mere four hours with these remarkable individuals was certainly enough to realize that, on any given day, there are angels in the skies over Colorado.

Responding to everything from car accidents to farm accidents, Flight for Life has not only saved countless lives of the people of Colorado and the surrounding states, they've enabled those citizens who live far from a metro area to enjoy the small town quality of Colorado and the West while not totally losing access to world class medical care.

Established in October 1972, Flight for Life was the first hospital-based civilian emergency air ambulance program in the Nation. During its 30-year history, Flight for Life has logged more than 75,000 missions and has become the model for the nearly 200 air ambulance programs worldwide, and is still considered a leader in its field.

Serving every community in the great state of Colorado and the surrounding seven states, Flight for Life is the biggest and busiest critical care air transport program in Colorado, transporting patients to any appropriate medical facility.

Flight for Life's reputation is second only to its dedicated crew. Located across the state in Denver, Frisco, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, the crew consists of 31 flight registered nurses, 27 flight paramedics, 14 helicopter pilots, 6 fixed-wing pilots, 6 helicopter mechanics, 10 emergency medical technicians (EMT), and 10 communications specialists.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Flight for Life in Colorado are not only talented professionals, but they are indeed public servants who deserve our admiration. I join the large number of Coloradans and others across the country who have been positively affected by these people in saying a well-deserved "thank you" for all that they do to serve and protect our citizens.

TRIBUTE TO REV. J.J. ROBERSON

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, July 10, 2005, in the great city of Houston, TX, my friend and distinguished religious leader Dr. J.J. Roberson will commemorate more than four decades in the ministry with the observance of Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church's Annual Father, Son's and Grandson's Day.

Born in New Gulf, TX, in 1918, Dr. Roberson graduated from Wharton County Training School and attended Tyler Barber College where he was certified as a Master Barber. He also attended Southern Business College, Southwestern Seminary, Texas Southern University and Mount Hope Bible College where he earned his Doctor of Divinity degree. Dr. Roberson has been married to his darling wife Louise Jackson Roberson for 63 years and is privileged to count among those who will be honoring him on this special occasion his sons in the ministry and his extended family.

Founded on January 8, 1958, Mt. Hebron, under Dr. Roberson's leadership, has been the mecca of community activism. His church is known throughout the city of Houston as a spiritual soldier who leads by example. Over the years, he has presided over the establishment of a number of sanctuaries, an apartment complex and a state-of-the-art Pipe Organ installed in 1998 with the expansion of the pulpit and the purchase of 75 acres of land in Brazoria County. To date, the membership has grown to more than 1,900 members and 1,058 families.

A decorated World War II Veteran of the U.S. Army, Dr. Roberson is presently Commander of VFW Eugene Warren Post No. 471. He is also the President of the Baptist Ministers Association of Houston and Vicinity, 1st Vice Moderator of the Independent Missionary Baptist General Association of Texas, Secretary-Treasurer of the Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas BTU Board, and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

1st Vice President of the South Texas Regional Convention.

Mr. Speaker, in 2001, Dr. Roberson was inducted into the Religious Hall of Fame in Dallas, TX. That same year, he received the L.A. Simpson Pastor of the Year Award. Over the years, he has received an NAACP Membership Citation, War Against Drugs Commendation and honors from the Sam Houston Area Council and the Boy Scouts of America. In 1986, he received an "Official Memorandum from the State of Texas" in honor of Martin Luther King Day. In 1982, the Mayor of Houston issued a proclamation declaring the month of June, 1982 as Building Project Days for Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, Inc.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to such a strong and dedicated leader who has, over the years, been a great friend and mentor. Dr. Roberson has, through his ministry, touched the lives of so many people and we are all the better for having him in our lives.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GARY CLARK

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD and I rise today to celebrate the life of Gary Clark, who died on June 22, 2005 at age 47. Gary was a longtime resident of Signal Hill, CA in the 37th Congressional District.

Over the past two decades, Gary served with great distinction in the world of public transportation. He was the head of the Government Relations Department at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, one of the largest public transit agencies in the country.

He began his transit career with the Orange County Transportation Authority and in 1988 joined the Southern California Rapid Transit District, which eventually became LACMTA.

In his capacity as Deputy Executive Officer of Government and Board Relations, Gary played a leadership role in coordinating LACMTA's legislative advocacy in Washington and Sacramento. He spent a significant amount of time on Capitol Hill over the years and, as a result, we came to know him and his work well.

Gary possessed great integrity and intelligence. His friends, coworkers and family remember him as a person of dignity, strength and compassion despite the pressures of a demanding job. He was the quintessential public servant who dedicated himself to the needs of the community and firmly believed in the mission and purpose of public transportation.

In addition, Gary was a man of great faith. He served as Director of Music for 13 years at Grace United Methodist Church in Long Beach, CA. He also actively served Grace Methodist as a Trustee and member of its Worship Committee. Additionally, he was selected to be a lay delegate to the California Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Although we know him primarily through his role in transportation policy, Gary displayed a

real zest for life and was passionate about many things—the church, politics, democracy, equality and sports. He was an ardent Los Angeles Dodgers fan and also closely followed the football team at UCLA, his alma mater.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that we say farewell to a remarkable human being who personified the best in public service and served the public transportation community with honor and distinction. Gary will be truly missed. We extend our condolences to his partner, Peter Cobo, his mother, Berniece Clark, sisters Diane Kildun and Kathleen Larson, and nephews and nieces.

HONORING GARLAND, TX, TEACHER, SHERRY MULLINS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Sherry Mullins, an outstanding teacher and community leader from Garland, TX. Ms. Mullins has been named one of eight national finalists for the Richard T. Farrell Teacher of Merit Award in the field of history. This annual award is presented to a teacher who develops and uses creative teaching methods to enhance students' interest in history. In her tenure as a teacher at North Garland High School, Ms. Mullins has consistently helped her students achieve at the highest levels in the National History Day Program.

National History Day is a yearlong program in which students explore historical topics related to an annual theme. In preparing her students for the program, Ms. Mullins rose above the call of duty and equipped her students for success.

Mr. Speaker, I find it encouraging that there are extraordinary educators in this country like Ms. Mullins who work faithfully shaping the minds of our students. I hope you and our colleagues will join me in recognizing Ms. Mullins for her commitment to educating the potential leaders of tomorrow.

GAMBLING EXPLOSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, gambling is exploding throughout our country. Tribal casinos have been propagating at an alarming rate.

I am deeply concerned about the impact this is having on our society. Gambling destroys families and preys on the poor. The number of tribes now actively "reservation shopping" is extremely troubling. The cover story of the May 9, 2005, issue of CQ Weekly reports on the explosive growth of tribal casinos and cites eight states—Oregon, Kansas, Minnesota, Florida, California, Illinois, New York and Ohio—where off-reservation gambling is being proposed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD a copy of the letter I recently sent to President Bush urging his action on this matter, a May 9 memorandum prepared by the

Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the Library of Congress at my request detailing options the Bush Administration could take to address this issue, and the CQ Weekly sidebar article detailing the explosive growth of tribal casinos. If the administration believes it does not have authority to issue a moratorium to halt new tribal gambling operations, it should send Congress legislation so that we can take action.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

May 19, 2005.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
The President, The White House,
Washington DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Many in America, myself included, are deeply concerned by the explosive growth of tribal casinos. There are now more than 400 tribal casinos in 30 states. Tribes also are now aggressively seeking off-reservation land—commonly referred to as "reservation shopping"—to build even more facilities. This rapid expansion of casino gambling is spiraling out of control, with devastating consequences for our country.

This is not a Republican or a Democrat issue; nor is it a conservative or a liberal issue. It is a matter that calls for action in the best interest of every American. Casino gambling, once limited to places like Las Vegas and Atlantic City, is now coming to cities—and even small towns—across America and bringing with it all its social ills, like higher crime and suicide rates, increased personal bankruptcies and the break-up of families.

I write today asking that you issue an executive order placing an immediate two-year moratorium on the opening of any more tribal casinos until Congress can thoroughly review the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) of 1988. Congress, with the help of your administration, must examine the unintended consequences of this legislation and address the gaping loopholes in the law.

The moratorium also should apply to the federal recognition process of tribes, which is completely broken. As you know, I have long been calling for reforms of the tribal recognition process. I repeatedly asked former President Clinton and his administration to take action and have written your administration on several occasions asking for a top-to-bottom review of the process. To date, no steps have been taken to address the issue.

Something also needs to be done to address the issue of senior level staff leaving the Bureau of Indian Affairs and then immediately going out and representing tribes seeking federal recognition. Tougher restrictions must be put in place.

Native Americans have become mere pawns in what is now a billion dollar battleground as outside interests—and investors, some from outside the country—have worked behind the scenes to spur the growth of tribal casinos. In September 2001, the then General Accounting Office issued a scathing report saying the process was fraught with problems and needed improvement. The report concluded by saying because of weaknesses in the process, "the end result could be that the resolution of tribal recognition cases will have less to do with the attributes and qualities of a group as an independent political entity deserving of a government-to-government relationship with the United States and more to do with the resources that petitioners and third parties can marshal to develop a successful and political strategy."

The number of tribes now actively "reservation shopping" is extremely troubling. The cover story of the May 9, 2005 issue of CQ Weekly reports on the explosive growth of tribal casinos and cites eight states—Oregon,

Kansas, Minnesota, Florida, California, Illinois, New York and Ohio—where off-reservation gambling is being proposed. The sidebar article detailing the battles being waged in these states over this issue is enclosed.

Also enclosed is a May 9, 2005, Congressional Research Service memorandum, which I requested, detailing options your administration can take to address this issue, including “(1) withdrawing authority to recognize new tribes; (2) directing that regulations be issued for land acquisition for gaming purposes and that regulations be rescinded for issuing procedures for class III gaming in the absence of a tribal-state compact; and (3) directing the Attorney General to take certain steps to enforce laws against illegal Indian gaming operations.”

The unintended consequences of IGRA have not been positive, either for the overwhelming majority of Native Americans who still live in poverty or for the hundreds of communities across America that are now home to tribal casinos. As long as reliance on gambling continues, the welfare of most Native Americans will be in jeopardy. At the same time, the victims of the gambling industry will continue to mount in community after community after community and the economic and social costs to those communities will only increase.

I implore you to involve your administration in this issue before it brings even more harm to the American people. Congress has begun to take steps to address some of these issues—legislation has been introduced in the House to prevent “reservation shopping”—but an executive order will have an immediate impact and is the right thing to do until the myriad of problems that have come with this explosive growth are addressed.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

MAY 9, 2005.

MEMORANDUM

Subject Presidential Authority with Respect to Indian Gaming.

To Hon. Frank R. Wolf, Attention: Courtney Schlieter.

From M. Maureen Murphy, Legislative Attorney, American Law Division.

This responds to your request that our office provide you with a brief list of possible tools that the President might employ to curb “reservation shopping,” that is, locating Indian gaming on off-reservation, possibly distant, sites that are more conducive to gaming than traditional reservation lands. Specifically, you are interested in preventing recognition of new Indian tribes under the administrative acknowledgment process under 25 C.F.R. Part 83; limiting trust acquisition of land to be used for gaming; and curtailing the extension of casino gaming. We will address each in turn and indicate any Presidential authority or agency discretionary authority that may be used to pursue these goals.

Options to achieve the above results include: (1) withdrawing authority to recognize new tribes; (2) directing that regulations be issued for land acquisition for gaming purposes and that regulations be rescinded for issuing procedures for class III gaming in the absence of a tribal-state compact; and (3) directing the Attorney General to take certain steps to enforce laws against illegal Indian gaming operations.

Recognition of New Tribes. The Department of the Interior (DOI) has a regulation, 25 C.F.R., Part 83, detailing an administrative process by which an American Indian group may establish that it exists as an Indian tribe. Rather than being the result of a

special delegation from Congress to the Secretary of the Interior (SOI) to make determinations as to whether or not groups satisfy specified criteria requiring recognition as Indian tribes, 25 C.F.R., Part 83, is based on various statutes delegating authority to the DOI. It, thus, might be possible for the President to issue a directive withdrawing from DOI the power to recognize groups as Indian tribes. Were that to occur, however, groups seeking to establish themselves as Indian tribes and eligible for benefits and services provided to federal Indian tribes would likely turn to the federal courts or Congress to obtain federal recognition.

Limiting Trust Acquisition of Land for gaming. Unlike the tribal acknowledgment process, the trust land acquisition process rests on authority specifically delegated to DOI by statute. There are general Indian land acquisition regulations. There is, however, no specific DOI regulation detailing a procedure that must be satisfied before land may be taken into trust for gaming purposes. Although DOI issued a proposal to this effect on September 14, 2000, and reopened the comment period on December 27, 2001, no final regulations have been issued. Should DOI decide to revisit the issue of amending its Indian land acquisition regulations and issue proposed regulations for land acquisition for gaming, it is possible that provisions could be included in such regulations that would have the effect of modifying the land acquisition process to such an extent that the overall effect would be to limit acquisitions for gaming purposes, including off-reservation acquisitions. Although it would seem that even if the President has no direct authority to modify or promulgate such regulations, he would be able to provide DOI with policy guidance to move in that direction.

Curtailing the Extension of Casino Gaming. Although SOI, rather than the President, has been delegated authority under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), that authority is limited. For class III gaming to occur, there must be a tribal-state compact and SOI has authority to approve such compacts. Approval may be withheld only for three specified reasons, and the compact is deemed approved if SOI does not act within 45 days.

One way that might be available to SOI to curtail further casino gaming is to rescind regulations that the SOI has issued authorizing the promulgation of procedures for class III gaming when a State raises an Eleventh Amendment sovereign immunity defense to a suit brought by a tribe to compel negotiation of a tribal-state compact. These regulations, 25 C.F.R. Part 291, have not yet been used. Without the regulations, there would be no possibility of class III gaming in the absence of a tribal-state compact.

Other options that might be available to the President include instructing the Department of Justice to review all casino gaming on Indian lands and, to the extent permitted under applicable statutes, bring federal prosecutions or seek judicial injunctions against any gaming being operated in violation of IGRA or state law.

We hope this information is helpful to you and that you will call upon our office should you need further assistance.

M. MAUREEN MURPHY,
Legislative Attorney.

[From the CQ Weekly, May 9, 2005]

RESERVATIONS NOT REQUIRED

The best casino sites on Indian reservations have been taken, and some tribes are looking elsewhere for new markets. States around the country are debating proposals for off-reservation gambling, in addition to

the expansion of existing casinos. Here are some of the proposals:

OREGON

Gov. Theodore R. Kulongoski has signed a deal with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation to build a casino in the Columbia River Gorge, with the state getting a share of the revenue. The tribe would close a smaller casino in central Oregon. The federal government now must approve the site. The local congressman, Greg Walden, supports the plan. Meanwhile, across the river in Washington, just north of Portland, the Cowlitz Tribe wants to build a casino with the backing of the Mohegans of Connecticut.

KANSAS

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has an agreement with two tribes—the Kickapoo and the Sac and Fox—to build a casino in the Kansas City area. Legislators also have been looking at other proposals for expanding gambling in the state, and there are reports of other plans for Indian casinos in the works. A court ruling on the state's education funding, expected soon, could leave Kansans scrambling to find more money for schools—and gambling could be the most attractive option.

MINNESOTA

Gov. Tim Pawlenty has proposed a casino in Minneapolis-St. Paul and is talking with the White Earth Band of the Chippewa Indians and a non-tribal operator about running it jointly. Gambling is already big business in Minnesota. But Pawlenty is having trouble selling his new casino idea to the legislature. Competing tribes also object to the deal. For now, anyway, his prospects are uncertain.

FLORIDA

In March, voters in Broward County, north of Miami, voted to allow slot machines at places with parimutuel betting, such as racetracks. The vote also could be an opening for two tribes—the Seminole and the Miccosukee—to get into Las Vegas-style slots, since the Supreme Court has said tribes are entitled to any kind of gambling allowed in a state. The tribes are pressing for talks with Gov. Jeb Bush. Meanwhile, the state legislature has been fighting over how to regulate and tax machines in Broward.

CALIFORNIA

A deal for one tribe to build a huge casino in the Bay Area might fall flat, but Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has struck revenue-sharing agreements with 10 tribes since he took office, allowing them to start or expand casinos. He is in talks now with a number of others.

ILLINOIS

The Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin wants to open a casino in the Village of Lynwood, on Chicago's south side. The tribe has the backing of the town board as well as officials from some neighboring communities. Local Rep. Jesse L. Jackson Jr. is lobbying for it and says local and state governments could expect a share of the revenue. A congressman from an adjoining district, Jerry Weller, is fighting it.

NEW YORK

In 2001, to boost revenue and tourism, the legislature approved six new casinos. One tribe has opened two in western New York and is building a third. Gov. George E. Pataki now wants to let five tribes put casinos in the Catskills. The deal would title tribal land claims. A Supreme Court ruling in a separate New York case has forced him to rework four of the deals, which would have let the tribes buy thousands of acres of land. The court rejected the Oneida Nation's effort to unilaterally declare sovereign authority on newly purchased land and all

local taxes and regulations, knowing the tribe has to go through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

OHIO

A number of mayors state lawmakers and others been discussing ways to bring gambling to Ohio. Some have been negotiating with the Eastern Shawnee of Oklahoma, which claims historic ties to the state. The mayor of one town testified before Congress recently, saying that a tribal casino complex would bring new jobs and money to an area hard hit with the loss of manufacturing jobs. However, Gov. Bob Taft has said he opposes gambling.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NASA AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the "National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005". I am joined as cosponsors by all of my Democratic colleagues on the Science Committee, and I hope that other Members on both sides of the aisle will join us once they have had a chance to review the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation being introduced today provides an authorization for NASA that is credible, practical, and conferenceable. It recognizes that NASA has been, is, and should continue to be a multi-mission agency with significant R&D activities in science, aeronautics, and human space flight. This bill makes it clear that we support the President's goal of making exploration beyond low Earth orbit the long-term objective of NASA's human space flight program, and that we believe it is important to move forward aggressively to develop the Crew Exploration Vehicle and its associated launch vehicle. At the same time, it should be clear that we also believe that NASA's aeronautics R&D program needs to be revitalized because of its benefits to the nation's economy, national security, and quality of life. Similarly, NASA's science programs should also be supported because they offer the potential of dramatically increasing our knowledge of the Earth, the solar system, and the rest of the universe, as well as providing the opportunity for applications that can benefit life back here on Earth.

As a result, the legislation recognizes the need to ensure that the productive balance that has existed between NASA's major program areas is protected. To enforce that balance, the bill provides clear funding guidance, a restructuring of NASA's accounts into human-space-flight and nonhuman-space-flight accounts, flexible "firewalls" between NASA's major accounts, and consultation requirements in the event changes to the existing balance are contemplated.

Let me mention a few of the other main features of the bill. It provides a three-year authorization and funding guidance for NASA's major programs. Funding guidance contained in the bill includes:

Funding for a Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission.

Additional funding for the James Webb Space Telescope to compensate for the impact of the delay in selecting a launch vehicle

for the mission, as well as for other programmatic challenges, so that this high priority mission can remain on track.

Funding for university research restored to FY 2005 levels.

Funding for the Earth Science program's Glory mission restored.

Additional funding for the high priority Earth Science program's Global Precipitation Mission (GPM).

Additional funding to allow ongoing, scientifically productive spacecraft missions such as Voyager and Ulysses to continue.

Funding preserved for fundamental, applied, and commercial life sciences and other microgravity research not tied to the human exploration program.

Aeronautics funding restored to the FY 2004 level and the decline contained in the President's five-year budget for aeronautics reversed.

Increased funding for education, including for the National Space Grant program.

Full funding for the Space Shuttle program.

Full funding for the International Space Station program.

Human Exploration funding to allow accelerated development of the Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) and its associated launch vehicle as well as for further implementation planning for NASA's human exploration program.

Funding provided for promoting technology transfer initiatives at NASA.

Some of the policy provisions contained in the bill include:

Ensuring that if the overall NASA budget is cut, the authorized levels for each of NASA's major programs would be cut proportionately, so no one area would suffer disproportionate cuts.

Having NASA prioritize its science programs and periodically assess their performance.

Having NASA develop a plan to ensure the continued health of the critically important Deep Space Network.

Directing NASA to schedule a Hubble servicing mission once NASA has successfully returned the Shuttle to flight.

Establishing a national policy for aeronautics R&D and initiating technology programs to advance the aeronautical state-of-the-art in key areas.

Directing NASA to honor its international obligations to the International Space Station program.

Strongly encouraging NASA to have a goal of retiring the Space Shuttle in 2010 and initiating Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) operations, but directing NASA not to retire all of the Shuttles until the CEV is operational unless the Administrator determines continued Shuttle operations would not be safe.

Establishing priorities for NASA's Human Exploration program for the next three years—namely, development of the CEV and its associated launch vehicle, and definition of the overall exploration architecture and prioritized implementation plan.

Directing NASA to work to improve access to its educational programs by minorities and economically disadvantaged students.

Directing NASA to seek an independent review of its educational programs and the extent to which they are effective in achieving STEM goals.

Establishing a prize program at NASA to encourage needed technology developments.

Encouraging NASA to aid in the development of the commercial space sector.

Directing NASA to develop a workforce strategy for its civil service workforce, seek input from the affected employees, and not undertake RIFs until Congress has had a chance to review NASA's plans.

Directing NASA to develop a financing policy for its test facilities that protects key national assets.

Providing NASA with enhanced use lease authority at its Centers.

Limiting off-shoring of contracts for the procurement of goods and services.

Having the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel (ASAP) take on additional responsibilities, namely monitoring NASA's long-term compliance with the Columbia Accident Investigation Board's (CAIB) safety recommendations.

Establishing an independent commission to evaluate the safety of the International Space Station.

Providing a framework for establishing an independent commission in the event of a future human space flight accident.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, the bill that we are introducing today is intended to provide clear Congressional direction to NASA with respect to priorities and balance. At the same time, it is intended to be flexible enough to accommodate changing circumstances and emergencies. Not everyone will agree with every provision in this bill—but that's been the case with every significant piece of legislation that I can remember being considered by this body. That is what the legislative process is all about. At the same time, I believe that the NASA Authorization Act of 2005 does provide a credible, practical, and conferenceable vehicle for providing needed guidance to NASA for the next three years.

NASA is an agency that has been committed to excellence in all of its areas of endeavor. It truly is a workforce of "rocket scientists". The legislation I am introducing today provides the policy and funding guidance that will position NASA for a productive and exciting future, and I hope that we can move it towards speedy enactment.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by stating a sentiment that I know is shared by all Members. Namely, our thoughts and prayers are with all of the members of the NASA family as they prepare to return the Space Shuttle to flight, and in particular we wish the crew of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* well on their upcoming journey.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, on June 30th, I met with Governor Bob Riley and attended the Base Realignment and Closure Commission Regional hearing in Atlanta, Georgia in support of Alabama's military installations. As a result, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 345–362. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall Vote 345: "no." An amendment by Jim Davis to prohibit use of funds in the bill to enforce regulations preventing family travel to Cuba. Amendment failed.

Rollcall Vote 346: "no." An amendment by Barbara Lee to prohibit use of funds in the bill

to enforce regulations preventing travel to Cuba by academic institutions. Amendment failed.

Rollcall Vote 347: "no." An amendment by Bernie Sanders to prohibit use of funds in the bill to provide for the competitive sourcing of flight service stations. Amendment passed.

Rollcall Vote 348: "no." An amendment by Charlie Rangel to prohibit the use of funds from being made available to implement, administer, or enforce the economic embargo of Cuba, except that the foregoing limitation does not apply to the administration of a tax or tariff. Amendment failed.

Rollcall Vote 349: "yes." An amendment by Mark Souder to prohibit the use of funds to enforce the DC gun ban. Amendment passed.

Rollcall Vote 350: "yes." An amendment by Scott Garrett to prohibit the use of funds to enforce the Supreme Court ruling about eminent domain. Amendment passed.

Rollcall Vote 351: "no." An amendment by Rosa DeLauro to prohibit use of funds in the bill to enter into any contract with an incorporated entity where such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity is incorporated or chartered in Bermuda, Barbados, the Cayman Islands, Antigua, or Panama. Amendment failed.

Rollcall Vote 352: "yes." An amendment by Joel Hefley to reduce the overall level of spending by one percent. Amendment failed.

Rollcall Vote 353: "yes." An amendment by Carolyn Kilpatrick to prohibit the use of funds from being made available to recommend approval of the sale of Unocal Corporation to CNOOC Ltd. of China. Amendment passed.

Rollcall Vote 354: "no." An amendment by David Obey requiring testimony before Congressional committees and communication with Members of Congress, witnesses will give frank and complete answers to all questions. Amendment failed.

Rollcall Vote 355: "no." An amendment by Sherrod Brown to prohibit the use of funds from being used by the Council of Economic Advisers to produce an Economic Report of the President regarding the average cost of developing and introducing a new prescription drug to the market at \$800 million or more. Amendment failed.

Rollcall Vote 356: "no." An amendment by Nydia Velasquez to prohibit funds made available in the Act from being used by the General Services Administration to carry out the eTravel Service program. Amendment passed.

Rollcall Vote 357: "no." An amendment by Chris Van Hollen to prohibit funds made available in the Act from being used to implement the revision of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 made on May 29, 2003. Amendment passed.

Rollcall Vote 358: "yes." Final passage of the Transportation-Treasury Appropriations bill.

Procedural and Suspension Votes

Rollcall Vote 359: "yes." Previous question vote

Rollcall Vote 360: "yes." Suspension vote expressing the sense of the House that a Chinese state-owned energy company exercising control of critical United States energy infrastructure and energy production capacity could take action that would threaten to impair the national security of the United States.

Rollcall Vote 361: "yes." Suspension vote expressing the grave disapproval of the House of Representatives regarding the majority

opinion of the Supreme Court in the case of Kelo et al. v. City of New London et al. that nullifies the protections afforded private property owners in the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment.

Rollcall Vote 362: "yes." Suspension vote providing supplemental funding for VA health care.

TO HONOR JEFFREY C. KROON ON HIS 20 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated public service of Jeffrey Kroon, resident of Chautauqua County city of Jamestown, upon receiving the Boys and Girls Clubs of America National Service to Youth Award.

Kroon was presented with the award at the Boys and Girls Club awards night, for his 20 years of devoted service to the organization. He began working with the Jamestown club in 1985 as an employment coordinator for teens. Within 5 years he became the Boys and Girls Club of Jamestown assistant director, a position that he still holds.

In addition to the work he does with the Boys and Girls Club, Kroon has also been a volunteer with the Jamestown Area Youth Soccer League for the past 22 years. For 15 of the past 22 years Kroon has served as president.

Along with receiving the National Service to Youth Award, Kroon was also given the National Professional Service Award for extreme devoted service to boys and girls.

Kroon is a very dedicated man whose commitment and service is highly appreciated at the Jamestown Boys and Girls Club. I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have the opportunity to honor him here today.

HONORING AND THANKING ALAN LEMONS AND CHADO JACOBS

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank two men from Hudson, Colorado, Alan Lemons and Chado Jacobs, for their selflessness and heroic acts that helped save the lives of two other fellow Coloradans, Shalyn and Zach Roach on Saturday, June 18, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, on that same day I was witness to an event of true heroism and of God's great intervention. That Saturday, I had the honor of joining some of the tremendously dedicated and talented group of professionals who make up the St. Anthony Hospital's Flight for Life team of Colorado.

It just so happened that on this Saturday morning, the Flight for Life air ambulance was called to the accident site in Hudson, Colorado where Shalyn and Zach Roach had been in a car accident that led to their car being trapped upside down, underwater, in an irrigation canal.

As the car lay upside down, partially submerged in water, the situation was obviously very dire for the Roaches. However, thanks to Alan Lemons and Chado Jacobs, Shalyn and Zach Roach are still with us today.

After witnessing the accident, Mr. Lemons and Mr. Jacobs immediately rushed into the canal and, putting their own personal safety aside, went underwater in order to pull the Roaches from their submerged vehicle and perform CPR on Shalyn.

Mr. Speaker, the term "hero" means different things to different people. To some, people who have fought in wars for our country are heroes, and I think that's a very appropriate description. For others, a hero may be a former teacher or coach, or maybe even a professional athlete. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the actions of these two men from Hudson, Colorado are nothing short of heroic. Before the Flight for Life crew arrived on the scene of the accident, these men acted without concern for themselves and helped save two lives of people they had never met before.

And so, Mr. Speaker, it's with great appreciation and honor that I speak from the floor of this great chamber to honor Alan Lemons and Chado Jacobs for their selflessness and heroism. We're proud to call them Coloradans, and the State is a better place because of them.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE ARMANDO V. RODRIGUEZ

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay a special tribute to my friend Judge Armando V. Rodriguez, who recently celebrated more than thirty-two years as a Judge in the Harris County Justice Court.

Judge Armando V. Rodriguez is a native Houstonian who received his Bachelors of Business Administration, Bachelor of Law, and Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees from the University of Houston. He has been an active community leader in Harris County for over 40 years and has been an active member of a number of civic clubs and boards. He is truly one of the most dedicated public servants in our great city of Houston.

In 1972, Judge Rodriguez received the distinction of being appointed as one of the first Hispanics to preside over the City of Houston's Municipal Court system.

In 1973, he was the first Hispanic to be appointed Justice of the Peace by the Commissioners Court of Harris County, and by election has continuously held that office and is currently serving as the Presiding Judge. From 1992 to 1993, he was Vice Chairman of the Justice of the Peace Section of the State Bar of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, at the invitation of then President Jimmy Carter, Judge Rodriguez addressed the Conference on Hispanic Heritage in Washington, DC on the future of the Hispanic Community.

In the early 1980's Judge Rodriguez and I Co-Founded Houston's Black-Brown Coalition. This organization was designed to bring African-Americans and Hispanics together to work on issues of common interests. In addition,

Mr. Speaker, in 1969, Judge Rodriguez founded Fiestas Patrias, a non-profit organization dedicated to promote an awareness of their culture and heritage among young Hispanics.

Judge Rodriguez has been the recipient of the Alex Award from the Houston NAACP Legal Program and the Benito Juarez Medallion from then President Luis of Mexico, the highest honor given a non-resident of Mexico for creating better goodwill and understanding between Mexico and the United States.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate my friend, Judge Armando V. Rodriguez for thirty-two years of outstanding service to our community.

IN HONOR OF RETIRING MAJOR
GENERAL JANET E.A. HICKS

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the lifelong dedication to our Nation's service of one of my constituents, Major General Janet E.A. Hicks of Augusta, Georgia.

This week, Major General Hicks retires after 30 years of service in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. She ends her Army career as Commander of the Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, in which position she has served since 2002.

General Hicks graduated from Simpson College in Iowa, and received her Masters Degree from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro. She was granted a direct commission in the Army in March 1975, and attended the Women Officers' Orientation Course at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

Her first assignment was to the 41st Signal Battalion in Korea. She was subsequently assigned to the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, where she taught the Signal Officer Basic and Advanced Courses. She next served at Fort Richardson, Alaska as logistics officer, followed by an assignment with Central Command MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

She was promoted to command the 125th Signal Battalion, 25th Infantry Division in 1992. After attending the Army War College, she assumed command of the 516th Signal Brigade with concurrent duties as deputy chief of staff for information management of the U.S. Army, Pacific at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

She assumed command of Fort Gordon in 2002.

Major General Hicks has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Humanitarian Service award.

Mr. Speaker, after 30 years of distinguished service to her Nation, Janet Hicks would be perfectly justified in taking some time off to serve herself for a change.

But I am pleased to note that her service to others will instead continue uninterrupted, as she assumes new duties as Headmaster of Augusta Preparatory School.

Mr. Speaker, as representative of the people of Georgia's 9th Congressional District, I thank Major General Janet Hicks for her dec-

ades of service to her Nation in uniform, and for her future service to our community and its young people.

CORPORAL LYLE J. CAMBRIDGE

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Corporal Lyle Cambridge.

Lyle lived a life rich in the traditions of his family and Navajo Culture. Unfortunately his life was cut short last Tuesday, July 5th, when he was killed while on patrol in Baghdad at the age of 25. This was his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Lyle, a graduate of Aztec High School, joined the United States Army in May 2002. He followed on the same military path as his brother Vernon, who has been in the Army for 12 years, and his father Joe, a veteran of Desert Storm.

Surviving Lyle are his parents, Virginia and Joe Cambridge Sr., his wife Evonne, his two sons, 3-year-old Wyatt and 1-year-old Nick, and many siblings.

After learning of Lyle's fate, they and other members of the Navajo community gathered to remember him and pray. Through their heartache, they recalled Lyle's generous spirit and fun-loving personality.

Today and always, we also recognize the spirit, strength and sacrifice of Corporal Lyle Cambridge.

Our heartfelt condolences and prayers are with Lyle's family and friends during this time of great loss. We salute him for his courage and bravery.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
COLONEL RICHARD "MOOSE" HAAS

HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute one of the many brave men and women who serve all of us in our great military. I would especially like to pay tribute today and offer my personal thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Richard "Moose" Haas, of the United States Air Force, for a job well done.

As a fellow Montanan, I'd like to take this time to highlight Colonel Haas' service to our country. Today, he serves in the Pentagon, working at the leading edge of future National Defense writing concepts outlining how the Department of Defense will maintain the peace and security of this great Nation for years to come.

Moose is a highly decorated combat veteran winning two Distinguished Flying Crosses with Valor during missions in Operation Desert Storm. He has also served in Operations Desert Shield, Deny Flight, Provide Comfort, and more recently in Enduring Freedom where he helped plan the Air Campaign against Taliban and Al Qaeda forces. He has logged over 2500 hours in the F-111 and F-15E fighter aircraft, with over 300 of those in combat.

I know many of my colleagues will join me in thanking Colonel Haas for the many years of service he has given our country and in congratulating him on retirement. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING GAYLORD NELSON

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. Since his death a little more than a week ago, at age 89, much has been written about this extraordinary statesman, environmentalist, husband, father, and friend.

Gaylord Nelson was a giant in Wisconsin history. In a life dedicated to public service, Gaylord Nelson embodied the ethics of his state: hard work, perseverance, honesty, integrity, compassion, and good humor.

Gaylord Nelson was a patriot who, as a young soldier, courageously served 46 months in a just war, and then, as a U.S. Senator, courageously took a stand against a war he believed was unjust.

As a State Senator and Governor of Wisconsin, Gaylord Nelson was an effective leader and natural-born politician who practiced the fine art of governing by always striving for the common good, seeking common ground, and practicing common decency. His political battles were never personal, and his personal friendships knew no political boundaries.

As a U.S. Senator, Gaylord Nelson brought his energy and activism to the national stage. His concern for the environment was visionary and relentless. Gaylord Nelson's efforts led to the Environmental Protection Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. In 1995, President Bill Clinton honored him with the Nation's highest civilian award: the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Gaylord Nelson was an advocate for consumers, small business owners, farmers, and all who shared his belief in the promise of America.

Above all, he was, as one report noted, "A voice crying out for the wilderness." As the father of Earth Day, he leaves a legacy of environmental awareness and action that has changed lives and livelihoods for the better in communities throughout the world.

Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin was a citizen of the world, a leader of the highest ethical standards, and a model public servant whose life's work will continue to inspire Americans for many generations. I join with all of Wisconsin in saluting him today.

SIKH FLAG RAISED IN
CALIFORNIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on July 3 in Turlock, California, the Sikh flag was raised at an event there. There were speeches from

many distinguished Sikhs, including Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, and many others. The event was organized by Dal Khalsa America, the American branch of a Sikh political party that is strongly in support of independence for Khalistan, the Sikh homeland. Leaders of Dal Khalsa have been arrested in India, along with other leaders, for raising the Khalistani flag there.

In all, dozens were charged last month on the 21st anniversary of India's military attack on the Golden Temple for daring to raise the flag of Khalistan and making speeches, even though these are not crimes in India. They are not crimes in any democratic country. Yet these charges follow the arrests of 35 Sikhs in January for hoisting the Sikh flag and making speeches on India's Republic Day.

These are just the latest acts in a pattern of repression that includes the killings of over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 89,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands more Christians and Muslims around the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. It seems that the more support for the freedom movement rises, the more brutal India's repression of it gets.

Self-determination is the essence of democracy. But instead of settling the issue of freedom democratically in a free and fair vote, India chooses to suppress the freedom movements with excessive and brutal force.

I am glad that we do not live in that kind of democracy, Mr. Speaker. Instead, we live in a country where you can say what you want, believe what you want, and raise a flag if you want. We must do what we can to help bring India to that kind of democracy, especially with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh coming for a visit soon.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come to stop our aid and trade with India and to put the Congress on record in support of self-determination for the people of Punjab, Khalistan, of Kashmir (as India promised in 1948), of predominantly-Christian Nagaland, and of the other states and nations seeking their freedom. It should start with the dropping of all charges against those arrested or charged for raising a flag and with the release of all political prisoners, and I urge President Bush to bring up these two issues when Prime Minister Singh is here. Only when these goals are achieved can India be welcomed into the family of democratic nations. Only then can these minorities live in freedom, peace, security, stability, dignity, and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's press release on the flag raising in California and its open letter on the charges against the Sikh activists who raised the flag into the RECORD at this time.

KHALISTAN FLAG HOISTED IN CALIFORNIA, USA

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 12, 2005.—At an event on July 3 in Turlock, California, Sardar Paramjit Singh Sekhon and Sardar Gagandeep Singh of Dal Khalsa America, invited Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, to hoist the flag of Khalistan. The Council of Khalistan is the government pro tempore of Khalistan. It is leading the struggle for Khalistan's independence. Dal Khalsa has led several marches and other events in Punjab to promote independence for Khalistan, the Sikh

homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. The event was shown throughout India on an Indian television channel called Aaj Tak on July 6. Dr. Aulakh was interviewed by a California representative of Voice of America.

As soon as Dr. Aulakh raised the flag, slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" ("Long live Khalistan") were raised. Speakers at the event spoke out strongly for a free and independent Khalistan. Speakers included Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon from Canada, Dr. Aulakh, Sardar Sekhon, Sardar Ajit Singh Pannu, Dr. Ranbir Singh Sandhu from Tracy, California, Sardar Karj Singh Sandhu from Philadelphia, Dr. Paramjit Singh Ajrawat, Sardar Dharam Singh Bains of Philadelphia, and others.

"If anyone speaks out for freedom, the Indian government labels them terrorists," Dr. Aulakh said. "This is not going to work. Everyone knows the modus operandi of the Indian government." The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1948, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! "These prisoners never committed any crime but peacefully speaking out for Sikh freedom," said Dr. Aulakh. "How can there be political prisoners in a democracy?" he asked. "We demand the release of all political prisoners," he said.

"As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh,'" Dr. Aulakh noted. He added that the event in Turlock was in line with the strong sentiment for freedom in Punjab, Khalistan. "We must work hand-in-hand, the Sikh diaspora and our Sikh brothers and sisters in Punjab, Khalistan, until the glow of freedom shines on a free and sovereign Khalistan," he said. "I thank Sardar Sekhon for organizing this event."

"The flame of freedom still burns bright in the hearts of Sikhs despite the deployment of over half a million Indian troops to crush it," Dr. Aulakh said. "Last year, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh signed a bill canceling the agreements that allowed the diversion of Punjabi water to non-riparian states. The bill asserted the sovereignty of Punjab. Sardar Atinder Pal Singh, another former Member of Parliament, held a seminar on Khalistan in Punjab. It was well attended and featured outstanding presentations, including one by Professor Gurtej Singh, IAS, Professor of Sikhism," he said. "Dal Khalsa has held marches through Punjab demanding the establishment of an independent Khalistan."

On the Anniversary of the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple, the center and seat of Sikhism, last month, Dal Khalsa, the Khalsa Panchayat, the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar), Damdani Taksal, the Sikh Student Federation (Bittu), and the Akal Federation marched through the streets of Amritsar demanding freedom for Khalistan. They carried posters of the demolished Golden Temple and distributed pamphlets on the life of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a Sikh leader who was murdered in the Golden Temple attack along with General Shabeg Singh, Bhairam Singh, and others. Bhindranwale was a strong advocate of Sikh freedom. Dal Khalsa also raised the flag of Khalistan on

Republic Day, January 26. 35 Sikhs were arrested at that time. Some of them have been denied bail. Cases were registered against dozens of Sikhs for raising the Sikh flag at the Golden Temple on the anniversary of the Golden Temple attack in the presence of over 30,000 Sikhs. Warrants have been issued for their arrest. Those charged include Dal Khalsa leaders such as Kanwarpal Singh Bittu, Sarabjit Singh Ghuman, Dr. Manjinder Singh Jandi, and others, as well as former Member of Parliament Simranjit Singh Mann.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Steve Forbes, writing in Forbes magazine, said that India is a multinational, multiethnic, multireligious, multicultural, multilingual state that is doomed to disintegrate like the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

"We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," Dr. Aulakh said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish."

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN, Washington, DC, July 12, 2005.

DEAR KHALSA JI: Last month on the anniversary of India's brutal military attack on the Golden Temple and 125 other Gurdwaras throughout Punjab, dozens of Sikhs were charged by the Indian government. Warrants for their arrest were issued. Their crime was raising the flag of Khalistan in the presence of over 30,000 Sikhs. We salute them for this action and for their courage. Apparently, peacefully demonstrating in support of self-determination and freedom can get you arrested in India. Unfortunately, this is part of a pattern.

The flame of freedom continues to burn brightly in the heart of the Sikh Nation. No force can suppress it. On Republic Day, Sikh leaders raised the Sikh flag in Amritsar and made speeches in support of Khalistan. 35 Sikhs were arrested for raising the Sikh flag. Eleven of them continue to be held and they have been denied bail. I was invited to raise the flag on July 3 in Turlock, California, at an event organized by Dal Khalsa America. I would like to thank Sardar Paramjit Singh Sekhon and Sardar Gagandeep Singh of Dal Khalsa America, who invited me to hoist the flag of Khalistan. Speakers included Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon from Canada, Dr. Aulakh, Sardar Sekhon, Sardar Ajit Singh Pannu, Dr. Ranbir Singh Sandhu from Tracy, California, Sardar Karj Singh Sandhu from Philadelphia, Dr. Paramjit Singh Ajrawat, Sardar Dharam Singh Bains of Philadelphia, and others. The event was shown throughout India on an Indian television channel called Aaj Tak on July 6. I was interviewed by a California representative of Voice of America. When I raised the flag, slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" were raised.

In 1699, Guru Gobind Singh gave sovereignty to the Sikh Nation, giving the blessing "In grieb Sikhin ko deon Patshahi" ("I give sovereignty to the humble Sikhs.") Just two years after his departure from this earthly plane in 1708, the Sikhs established our own independent state in Punjab. Sikhs ruled Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and from 1765 to 1849. There was no such thing as India then.

Today we struggle to regain the sovereignty that Guru Gobind Singh bestowed upon us over 300 years ago. Yet the Jathedar of the Akal Takht, Joginder Singh Vedanti, was quoted as saying that "We don't want a separate territory." Does Jathedar Vedanti,

like every other Sikh, pray "the Khalsa shall rule" every morning and evening? Has he forgotten our heritage of freedom? How can the spiritual leader of the Sikh religion deny the Sikh Nation's legitimate aspiration for freedom and sovereignty? Is he not stung by the words of one of his predecessors, former Akal Takht Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh, who said, "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh"? Is Akal Takht occupied by a person who does not believe in Sikh values and Sikh aspirations?

Punjab's Chief Minister, Captain Amarinder Singh, was declared a hero of the Sikh Nation for asserting Punjab's sovereignty and preserving Punjab's natural resource, its river water, for the use of Punjab farmers by cancelling Punjab's water agreements. In so doing, Amarinder Singh and the Legislative Assembly explicitly declared the sovereignty of the state of Punjab. In December former Member of Parliament Simranjit Singh Mann again reverted to public support of Khalistan. He pledged that his party will lead a peaceful movement to liberate Khalistan. Obviously, Mr. Mann is aware of the rising support of our cause. Mann joins Sardar Atinder Pal Singh, Sardar D.S. Gill of the International Human Rights Organization, and other Sikh leaders in Punjab in supporting freedom for Khalistan openly. Jagjit Singh, President of Dal Khalsa, was quoted in the Deccan Herald as saying that "the Indian government can never suppress the movement. Sikh aspirations can only be met when they have a separate state." There is no other choice for the Sikh nation but a sovereign, independent Khalistan. Every Sikh leader must come out openly for Khalistan. We salute those Sikh leaders in Punjab who have done so.

Any organization that sincerely supports Khalistan deserves the support of the Sikh Nation. However, the Sikh Nation needs leadership that is honest, sincere, consistent, and dedicated to the cause of Sikh freedom. Leaders like Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan, Harchand Singh Longowal, Didar Bains, Ganga Singh Dhillon, the Akali Dal leadership, and others who were complicit in the attack on the Golden Temple cannot be trusted by the Sikh Nation. The evidence against them is clear in Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism. The Sikh Nation cannot believe that these leaders will not betray the cause of Khalistan, just as they betrayed the Sikh Nation in 1984. We must be careful if we are to continue to move the cause of freedom for Khalistan forward in 2005 as we did in 2004.

The Akali Dal conspired with the Indian government in 1984 to invade the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikh during June 1984 in Punjab. Even the Pope spoke out strongly against this invasion and desecration of our most sacred shrine. How can these so-called Sikh leaders connive with the people who carried it out? If Sikhs will not even protect the sanctity of the Golden Temple, how can the Sikh Nation survive as a nation?

The Akali Dal has lost all its credibility. The Badal government was so corrupt openly and no Akali leader would come forward and tell Badal and his wife to stop this unparalleled corruption. If Jathedar Vedanti opposes freedom and sovereignty for the Sikh Nation, then he is not fit to sit in Akal Takht, in the seat of the Khalsa Panth. The Sikh Nation should have a Jathedar who is committed to restoring sovereignty that is our birthright and that Guru Gobind Singh granted.

Is this the freedom that Guru Gobind Singh bestowed upon us? Is this the "glow of

freedom" that Nehru promised us when Master Tara Singh and the Sikh leaders of the time chose to take our share with India?

The Council of Khalistan has stood strongly and consistently for liberating our homeland, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. For over 19 years we have led this fight while others were trying to divert the resources and the attention of the Sikh Nation away from the issue of freedom in a sovereign, independent Khalistan. Khalistan is the only way that Sikhs will be able to live in freedom, peace, prosperity, and dignity. It is time to start a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation.

The Akal Takht Sahib and Darbar Sahib are under the control of the Indian government, the same Indian government that has murdered more than a quarter of a million Sikhs in the past twenty years. The Jathedar of the Akal Takht and the head granthi of Darbar Sahib toe the line that the Indian government tells them. They are not appointed by the Khalsa Panth. Otherwise they would behave like a real Jathedar, Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke, rather than like Indian government puppet Jathedar Aroor Singh, who gave a Siropa to General Dyer for the massacre of Sikhs and others at Jallianwala Bagh. These institutions will remain under the control of the Indian regime until we free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation and oppression and sever our relations with the New Delhi government.

The Sikhs in Punjab have suffered enormous repression at the hands of the Indian regime in the last 25 years. Over 50,000 Sikh youth were picked up from their houses, tortured, murdered in police custody, then secretly cremated as "unidentified bodies." Their remains were never even given to their families! Another 52,268 are being held as political prisoners. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Over 250,000 have been murdered at the hands of the Indian regime. Even now, the capital of Punjab, Chandigarh, has not been handed over to Punjab, but remains a Union Territory. How can Sikhs have any freedom living under a government that would do these things?

Sikhs will never get any justice from Delhi. The leaders in Delhi are only interested in imposing Hindu sovereignty over all the minorities to advance their own careers and their own power. Ever since independence, India has mistreated the Sikh Nation, starting with Patel's memo labelling Sikhs "a criminal tribe." What a shame for Home Minister Patel and the Indian government to issue this memorandum when the Sikh Nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India.

How can Sikhs continue to live in such a country? There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India. Let us dedicate ourselves to living up to the blessing of Guru Gobind Singh. It is time to launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan. We must demand self-determination in a free and fair vote, the democratic way. It is time to shake ourselves loose from the yoke of Indian oppression and liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that all Sikhs may live lives of prosperity, freedom, and dignity.

Sincerely,

GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, July 12, 2005, I was unavoidably absent from the business of the House. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows on recorded votes:

Rollcall vote No. 365, ordering the previous question on H. Res. 351, "no"; No. 366, passage of H. Res. 351, "no"; No. 367, suspend the Rules and pass H. Res. 352, "no"; No. 368, suspend the Rules and pass H. Res. 343, "yes"; No. 369, passage of H.R. 739, "no"; No. 370, passage of H.R. 740, "no"; No. 371, passage of H.R. 741, "no"; No. 372, passage of H.R. 742, "no."

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION ON JULY 21, 1930

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, today I am introducing H. Res. 361 recognizing the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Veterans Administration on July 21, 1930. I am joined by the Committee's Ranking Member, Mr. EVANS, in introducing this resolution.

More than 48 million men and women have served America well and faithfully in military uniform. More than 1 million made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Twenty-five million veterans are living among us today. These men and women selflessly set aside their civilian lives to put on the uniform and serve us. Many return from that service bearing wounds to body and spirit. Many return hungry to take advantage of the fruits of the democracy they defended, and seek education and employment opportunity.

The nation's obligation to her defenders is as old as that defense itself. In his second inaugural address in 1865, President Abraham Lincoln clearly expressed the obligation: "... to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan."

On July 21, 1930, pursuant to a Congressional authorization, President Hoover issued an executive order to "consolidate and coordinate Government activities affecting war veterans," creating the Veterans Administration. The new VA was charged with ensuring that America's veterans received the benefits and services they had earned through their military service.

Today the 230,000 public servants of the Department of Veterans Affairs, formed from the VA in 1989, continue the noble tradition of their predecessors in service to veterans and their families.

The men and women of today's VA are dedicated to caring for today's veterans and stand ready to provide for our servicemembers who now defend our freedoms and our way of life.

IN SUPPORT OF H.J. RES. 54; GIVING POSTHUMOUS U.S. CITIZENSHIP TO GENERAL CASIMIR PULASKI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 54, honoring the heroism and sacrifice of General Casimir Pulaski (1748–1779), who fought valiantly with the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary war and died for freedom and American independence.

General Pulaski was born in Poland in 1748. As a young man of fifteen, Pulaski joined the Polish army, along with his father, to fight Russian and Prussian interference in Polish political affairs. After being outlawed by Russia for his actions in favor of liberty, Pulaski moved to Paris where he soon met Benjamin Franklin. In his quest to find mercenary soldiers, Franklin convinced Casimir Pulaski to join the colonies' cause against Great Britain.

In 1777, Casimir Pulaski came to Philadelphia to meet General George Washington. Upon meeting Washington Pulaski wrote in a letter that: "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it."

On September 11, 1777, Pulaski fought bravely in the battle at Brandywine, helping to avert a disastrous American defeat and courageously saving the life of George Washington. General Washington was so impressed with Pulaski's valor and abilities at Brandywine Creek that he recommended that Continental Congress appoint Pulaski as general of the American cavalry.

General Pulaski continued serving the Continental Army for two years until a major offensive in October 1779 took his life. On an assault against British forces in Savannah, Georgia, Casimir Pulaski was mortally wounded. Once taken aboard the American ship the *USS Wasp*, Pulaski died at sea on October 11, 1779.

Directly after his heroic death in 1779, the Continental Congress resolved that a monument be erected in General Pulaski's honor. Today, almost every city has a street, memorial or a school named in Pulaski's memory.

We in Western New York have the great privilege of having a strong and vibrant Polish American community. The Polish influence in Western New York can be traced back to Pieter Stadnitski, one of the partners of the Holland Land Office Company; the Dutch company which purchased and brought settlers to the area in the early 19th century. Since that time the community in Cheektowaga has thrived both culturally and politically. It is therefore fitting that the Pulaski Parade honoring General Pulaski is to take place in Cheektowaga, NY on July 17, 2005. This parade will honor Polish artists, politicians, dignitaries and heroes like Pulaski. I very much look forward to attending this parade, supporting the great courage of General Casimir Pulaski and saluting our great Polish American friends in Western New York.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH "BETSY" HOFFMAN

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elizabeth "Betsy" Hoffman for her devoted services as President of the University of Colorado System. President Hoffman has provided unwavering leadership to the University of Colorado bringing about several major achievements to each campus in the CU system. President Hoffman created and implemented CU Vision 2010, a bold system wide effort to enhance the University of Colorado in teaching, research, and service, by establishing a commitment to a culture of excellence.

I would like to recognize President Hoffman for her tireless efforts in working with Congress, federal agencies, local governments, and businesses that have furthered the development of a world-class health sciences center located at the Fitzsimons campus. Most recently, President Hoffman guided the University of Colorado through a consolidation of the Denver and Health Sciences Center campuses creating the number one research institution in the Rocky Mountain West at \$330 million a year.

Under her direction, the Boulder campus has consistently ranked among the top tier of public universities in federal research funding and first among public universities in NASA funding, which has bolstered and created new partnerships with private industry in the community.

President Hoffman has worked to uniquely position the Colorado Springs campus as the fastest growing campus within the University of Colorado System. She has cultivated partnerships with U.S. Space Command and NORAD to provide education, training, and research in areas of homeland defense and homeland security and directly supporting government efforts to promote the development of a professional space cadre.

President Hoffman has facilitated a record level of private support including \$250 million to establish the Coleman Institute to assist those with cognitive disabilities, providing the distinct honor of receiving the largest private gift to a public university at that time.

As an appointed member of the National Science Board and serving as Chair to the Board's Committee on Education and Human Resources, President Hoffman has championed policies for the University of Colorado and its peers to advance their basic research and applied science programs.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to offer my thanks to President Hoffman for her commitment and record of achievement as President of the University of Colorado System. I have enjoyed our working partnership and wish her and her husband, Brian, the best in her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROSA PARKS' REFUSAL TO GIVE UP HER SEAT ON THE BUS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a resolution commemorating Rosa Parks and her decision to stand up to injustice 50 years ago. On December 1, 1955, Ms. Parks refused to obey a bus driver's order that she give up her bus seat in the black section to a white man because the white section was full. It is the courage, dignity, and determination that Ms. Parks exemplified on this day that allows most historians to credit her with beginning the modern day civil rights movement. Ms. Parks's actions on December 1, 1955 led to the desegregation of American society and enabled all of this nation's citizens to realize freedom and equality.

The arrest of Ms. Parks led African Americans and sympathizers of other races to boycott the Montgomery city bus line until the buses in Montgomery were desegregated. The 381 day Montgomery Bus Boycott encouraged other courageous people across the United States to organize in protest and demand equal rights for all. The fearless acts of civil disobedience displayed by Rosa Parks and others resulted in the United States Supreme Court, on November 13, 1956, affirming a district court decision that held that Montgomery segregation codes deny and deprive African Americans of the equal protection of the laws. This decision would lead to other landmark Supreme Court decisions in which the Court would rule in the interest of justice and equality.

In the years following the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Ms. Parks moved to Detroit, Michigan in 1957 and continued her civil rights work by working in my District Office. Ms. Parks was with the office from 1965 until 1988. In the more than twenty years that Ms. Parks was in the office, she worked with a tireless spirit for the people of Detroit and other Americans. In 1987, she started the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development in Detroit, a nonprofit organization which motivates youth to reach their highest potential. So it is with great pleasure and honor that I stand today to recognize not only a civil rights pioneer, but a member of my staff, a constituent, and a friend.

It is in this recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Ms. Parks's refusal to give up her seat on the bus, that I ask the Congress and the great people of this nation to work with the same courage, dignity, and determination exemplified by her to address modern day inequalities and injustice. The American dream is out of reach for millions. The United States is one of the richest nations in the world so I ask: Why aren't our schools thriving? Why are so many African Americans unemployed? Why are health care, housing, and college education so difficult to afford?

Civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks displayed a defiant act of courage 50 years ago so that these questions would not be raised today. I know that this Congress and the people of this nation can work to further the ideals of Ms. Parks and the Civil Rights Movement.

**SUPPORTING TITLE II OF H.R. 458,
THE MILITARY PERSONNEL FI-
NANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION
ACT**

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Title II of H.R. 458, the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act. This bill helps protect our troops and other military personnel from predatory lending. We must make sure that our fighting men and women have access to credit while ensuring that reasonable protections are put in place to combat abusive lending practices.

Over the last few years, there has been an alarming increase in predatory financial scams located outside or near many of our nation's military bases. These unscrupulous businesses target members of our military and their families through the sale of sub-standard insurance and investment products. Many even resort to misleading representations that attempt to convince customers that the military endorses these businesses, which is simply not true.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must take action to prevent such unfair lending practices, without punishing legitimate business in similar industries. H.R. 458 accomplishes this goal by identifying predatory businesses that abuse consumers and safeguarding the financial futures of our soldiers and their families who rely on their legitimate counterparts. I applaud my friend from Kentucky, Mr. Davis, for sponsoring this legislation and urge my colleagues, on both sides of the Capitol, to support it.

**A TRIBUTE TO SENATOR GAYLORD
NELSON**

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a leader whose lifetime of public service reflected the very best of Wisconsin values. Senator Gaylord Nelson, the man credited with sparking the modern environmental movement, died July 3, at the age of 89.

Growing up in the small town of Clear Lake, Wisconsin, Senator Nelson developed a passion for the natural world, the protection of which became his highest political priority. He learned the true value of public service from the examples set by his parents, a small-town doctor and nurse who were known for treating neighbors in need regardless of their ability to pay. Though his political career would take him to Madison, WI, and then on to our Nation's Capital, Washington, DC., he never lost the friendly and unpretentious character that marked his early years in Clear Lake.

Among elected officials, Senator Nelson's leadership is undeniable. He served three terms in Wisconsin's State Senate before being elected Governor in 1959. Four years later, he ascended to the U.S. Senate, where he served for 18 years.

His accomplishments are too numerous to list. He is most widely known as the founder

of Earth Day, an annual celebration that mobilized public support for environmental stewardship and brought new political attention to the importance of protecting and preserving the natural world.

Building on the grassroots organizing that made Earth Day a success, Senator Nelson authored landmark conservation legislation at both the State and Federal levels. His legacy includes a huge array of public lands and park spaces, including the St. Croix Wild and Scenic Riverway, the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and Governor Nelson State Park. He sponsored legislation to protect rivers and waterways. He co-sponsored laws protecting the Appalachian Trail, and banning the use of toxic chemicals like DDT and Agent Orange.

Most widely known for his commitment to conservation, Senator Nelson also made his mark in other areas, including consumer protection, ethics and opposition to the Vietnam War.

As remarkable as his legislative accomplishments was the appealing and unpretentious style for which he was known. A friend to all, Senator Nelson once remarked that he could never dislike anyone whom he took the time to know. He avoided partisan rancor, and developed lifelong friendships with many whose views he opposed on the Senate floor. While he clearly understood that maintaining relationships enabled his political accomplishments, his sincere regard for his contemporaries was never in question.

When his career as an elected official ended in 1980, Senator Nelson continued his environmental advocacy as chairman of the Wilderness Society. As recently as April of this year, Senator Nelson wrote to students at MacDowell Montessori in Milwaukee—the same school my own granddaughters attended—to hail their Earth Day celebration and urge them to adopt a lifelong commitment to the environment.

Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans owe a debt of gratitude to Senator Nelson for his efforts to protect the natural world around us. He understood that access to clean air, water, and wilderness is crucial not only for our physical survival, but also for our spiritual nourishment. I am thankful to him for his passionate pursuit of these public goods, and for the example of public service that I take as inspiration in my own career.

**HONORING RICHARD JOHNSON,
SENIOR FARMER OF THE YEAR**

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Johnson for being selected as the 2005 Madera Chamber of Commerce Senior Farmer of the Year. Mr. Richard Johnson will be recognized at the Madera County Farm Bureau's 84th Annual Meeting and Senior Farmer Presentation on July 14th in Madera, California.

Mr. Johnson is a model of excellence in his community. For over 51 years, Richard has been a part of the agricultural community. As a child, Richard grew up working on a 300 acre farm, and upon entering Madera High School, he continued to strengthen his appre-

ciation for Agriculture through his active membership in Future Farmers of America.

After graduating from Madera High School, Richard went on to attend Fresno State where he majored in Agriculture. Upon returning from military service with the United States Air Force (1951–1955), Mr. Johnson returned to farming in Madera County, where today he continues to farm a diverse bounty of crops and livestock on 1,940 acres.

Mr. Johnson has been a member of the Madera County Farm Bureau for over 30 years, over 11 of which he has served as a member of the organization's Board of Directors. In addition, Richard Johnson has tirelessly devoted his time to numerous community organizations and projects, including Coats for Kids, Chowchilla 20–30 Club, and the Madera County Republican Central Committee. During the Christmas season, Mr. Johnson can be seen visiting local elementary schools dressed as Santa Claus.

Richard Johnson, together with his wife Lila Nelson-Johnson, have 3 sons.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Johnson upon being named Senior Farmer of the Year by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. His contributions to America's agricultural communities and to his country have been invaluable. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Johnson for this achievement.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH H. EVANS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a heroic Delaware firefighter, Joseph Evans, who tragically died in the line of duty at the age of 61. While responding to a house fire in the early hours of July 10th, 2005, Joe, an engineer with the Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Company, suffered a heart attack. Despite the best efforts of medical personnel, Joseph Evans passed away shortly after his arrival at the Nanticoke Hospital.

For 41 years, Joseph Evans was a member of the Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Company. During his dedicated career with Station #72, Joe served in many capacities, including Director of Supplies, Assistant Chief Engineer, and Chief Engineer. In 1968, his work earned him recognition as Bridgeville's "Fireman of the Year." Joe's efforts were not confined to Bridgeville; he also served with the Sussex County Firemen's Association, the Sussex County Fire Chiefs Association, the Delaware State Fire Chiefs Association and the Del-Mar-Va Volunteer Firemen's Association.

In addition to his work with the fire department, Joe was successful in other pursuits. As a young man, he distinguished himself athletically as a member of the 1962 Blue-Gold All Star Football team. A lifetime farmer, Joe also worked as a telephone lineman for Diamond State and later Bell Atlantic, where he received the company's Spirit of Excellence Award.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, Joseph Evans heroically gave his life in the service of others. This dedication, which is typical of firemen throughout the United States, is a testament to his courage and selflessness. I join my colleagues in remembering Joe's contributions

and offer my sincerest sympathy to both his family and his colleagues at the Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Company.

IN HONOR OF PAUL WINCHELL

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Paul Winchell, who passed away on Friday, June 24th.

Paul was born in Manhattan's Lower East Side on December 21, 1922. He studied ventriloquism from an early age, overcoming speech impediments and a difficult family life. He would go on to become one of the great pioneers of early television, bringing a smile to every household with his ventriloquism act on the Paul Winchell-Jerry Maloney show in the 1950's.

To younger generations, Paul was best known as the voice of Tigger, the loveable tiger from Walt Disney's adaptation of "Winnie the Pooh." He also played numerous roles on children's programs such as the Jetsons, the Smurfs, the Brady Bunch, and the Beverly Hillbillies. But Paul was much more than an entertainer—he was also an innovative thinker and inventor with thirty patents.

At the age of 35, Paul decided to return to school at Columbia University, where he studied premed and went on to work on projects for the American Red Cross and the Leukemia Society. In 1963 he joined forces with Doctor Henry Heimlich, and together they developed and patented the first early artificial heart. Rather than sit on his accomplishment, however, he donated the heart to the University of Utah, where it served as the prototype for Dr. Robert Jarvik's first successful heart implant in 1982.

Paul Winchell lived a life of unparalleled diversity. Whether making children smile or improving lives through innovation, he dedicated his talents to the betterment of his surroundings, and I request that we honor him for a life well lived.

SECURE TRAINS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am re-introducing the Secure TRAINS, Secure Transit and Railroads Across America and Investment in National Security, Act of 2005 for the second time in 2 years, and pleading the urgency of passage before Congress goes on its August break. I am pleased to have as co-sponsors, Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI, Minority Whip STENY HOYER, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member JIM OBERSTAR, Homeland Security Committee Ranking Member BENNIE THOMPSON, and Senior Transportation Committee Member and Chair of the Democratic Caucus BOB MENENDEZ. London should be too close for congressional comfort while the country's subways, buses, rail, light rail and ferries go

unprotected. London's tally thus far of 52 dead and 700 injured and the Madrid totals of more than 190 killed and 1,800 injured could be far worse here, considering the abysmal state of passenger and freight preparedness across the United States today.

Instead of direct passage, I tried to get the Homeland Security Committee, on which I serve, to include Secure TRAINS in the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, authorization bill, passed by the House in May, but my bill was defeated on a party line vote. I managed to get two amendments requiring DHS to develop passenger security best practices for mass transportation operators, and to develop a national plan for public outreach and awareness for employees and passengers. However, the key provisions of the bill and of another I cosponsored for freight hazmat security protection were defeated because the President's budget did not fund them.

President Bush's 2006 budget eliminated dedicated funding for mass transportation altogether, instead forcing mass transit into the Targeted Infrastructure Protection Program, TIPP, to compete with other transportation sectors, such as ports, which already receive at least some dedicated funding. Last year, Congress provided only \$150 million for mass transportation security grants, but this year the Senate Appropriations Committee already has reduced these grants by \$100 million.

I can only ask, rhetorically, whether the administration and Congress know what the people ride each day. Approximately 16 times as many passengers use public transportation as use airlines—9 billion passenger trips annually on public transportation—but 90 percent of transportation security funding has gone to air travel, after the fact, after the catastrophe. We are breaking our post-9/11 promise not to be caught flat footed again because we have let the record stand at \$21 billion for air travel security and \$550 million for public transportation security all told. Secure TRAINS at a little over \$3.8 billion modestly increases investment in public transportation and freight security.

Unlike much of the wasteful, open-ended funding for homeland security in the period following 9/11, most of the funding in Secure TRAINS would be available through grants. Thus, the Homeland Security Committee's formula based on threat, vulnerability and consequences would be applied with far greater financial efficiency and efficacy. The bill provides for first-line commonsense security, including cameras, communication systems, explosive detection, and security upgrades on tracks and in tunnels. The bill also includes whistleblower provisions I have been unable to get in prior bills. If stockbrokers and accountants can be protected by Sarbanes-Oxley, it's time we gave the same whistleblower protection to employees charged with keeping trains and buses secure.

We must not go on August vacation leaving subways, busses and rail as they were last week when London was attacked for the first time since World War II. This is the third time I have tried to get this bill passed. We must let it become three strikes and you're out.

H.R. 458—THE MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly support H.R. 458, the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act, and specifically to highlight Title II of this very important legislation. Title II is designed to protect our brave soldiers as they fight to defend our freedoms, by regulating all lenders that qualify as military lenders—including payday advance businesses, small loan companies, finance companies, or other types of creditors.

I would like to thank Congressman WEST-MORELAND, the sponsor of this bill, as well as Chairman OXLEY and Chairman BACHUS. We would not be able to eliminate unscrupulous lenders from offering these products without the leadership demonstrated by the House Financial Services Committee.

As a representative from North Carolina, I am particularly concerned with protecting our military. North Carolina is the most military friendly State in the Nation. With bases such as Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune, I am familiar with financial lenders that prey on our servicemen and women. These companies hurt our military by charging unjustifiable rates, using products with hidden fees, and refinancing loans to the detriment of military consumers. It often takes honest soldiers years to escape the financial hardships caused by these dishonest practices.

Our soldiers, like all American citizens, have a variety of financial service needs and value having a wide array of choices and alternatives to fulfill those needs. I applaud many of these alternative financial services outlets, including payday lenders, for striving to protect military personnel by conforming to the best practices recommended by the Community Financial Services Association, a panel of distinguished retired military members.

Rather than unnecessarily prohibiting lenders and limiting the options for our military, H.R. 458 cracks down on abusive practices while preserving access to credit. Title II mandates these necessary protections, such as disclosures and marketing and collection reforms, on a broad range of military lenders. Under Title II, all military lenders will be required to provide detailed disclosures on a variety of subjects. These mandatory disclosures include:

Not requiring service members to complete agreements merely because they signed an application or received a notice;

Advising military personnel, who are seeking short-term credit due to a family or other emergency, to consider applying through one of the Armed Forces' Relief Societies, the United Service Organizations or another base or military organization;

Acknowledging that any credit extension is not sponsored or endorsed by the Armed Forces, the Department of Defense, or any Federal entity;

That the lender may not contact the borrower's commanding officer or chain of command to collect the debt; and

That the service member and his/her dependents may have additional protections

which cannot be waived, even if suggested or required by the lender.

Again, my sincere thanks to the financial institutions that pushed for these reforms and to Congressman WESTMORELAND for his leadership. I look forward to working with my colleagues and our partners in the private sector to eliminate abusive practices and protect the financial health and access of our military.

PUTTING ALLEGATIONS IN THE PROPER CONTEXT

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, in the press for the past few days, I have reportedly heard all sorts of allegations and innuendoes against Karl Rove. Most of these seem to be political, rather than factual. I believe this Wall Street Journal article puts the debate about what was said by whom into a proper context. Former Ambassador Wilson has been largely discredited. Karl Rove, though it has been implied that he broke the law, does not appear to in fact have done so.

It is Wilson whose politically motivated comments who should be under scrutiny, not Rove.

[From the Wall Street Journal, July, 2005]

KARL ROVE, WHISTLEBLOWER

Democrats and most of the Beltway press corps are baying for Karl Rove's head over his role in exposing a case of CIA nepotism involving Joe Wilson and his wife, Valerie Plame. On the contrary, we'd say the White House political guru deserves a prize—perhaps the next iteration of the "Truth-Telling" award that The Nation magazine bestowed upon Mr. Wilson before the Senate Intelligence Committee exposed him as a fraud.

For Mr. Rove is turning out to be the real "whistleblower" in this whole sorry pseudoscandal. He's the one who warned Time's Matthew Cooper and other reporters to be wary of Mr. Wilson's credibility. He's the one who told the press the truth that Mr. Wilson had been recommended for the CIA consulting gig by his wife, not by Vice President Dick Cheney as Mr. Wilson was asserting on the airwaves. In short, Mr. Rove provided important background so Americans could understand that Mr. Wilson wasn't a whistleblower but was a partisan trying to discredit the Iraq War in an election campaign. Thank you, Mr. Rove.

Media chants aside, there's no evidence that Mr. Rove broke any laws in telling reporters that Ms. Plame may have played a role in her husband's selection for a 2002 mission to investigate reports that Iraq was seeking uranium ore in Niger. To be prosecuted under the 1982 Intelligence Identities Protection Act, Mr. Rove would have to have deliberately and maliciously exposed Ms. Plame knowing that she was an undercover agent and using information he'd obtained in an official capacity. But it appears Mr. Rove didn't even know Ms. Plame's name and had only heard about her work at Langley from other journalists.

On the "no underlying crime" point, moreover, no less than the New York Times and Washington Post now agree. So do the 36 major news organizations that filed a legal brief in March aimed at keeping Mr. Cooper and the New York Times's Judith Miller out of jail.

"While an investigation of the leak was justified, it is far from clear—at least on the public record—that a crime took place," the Post noted the other day. Granted the media have come a bit late to this understanding, and then only to protect their own, but the logic of their argument is that Mr. Rove did nothing wrong either.

The same can't be said for Mr. Wilson, who first "outed" himself as a CIA consultant in a melodramatic New York Times op-ed in July 2003. At the time he claimed to have thoroughly debunked the Iraq-Niger yellowcake uranium connection that President Bush had mentioned in his now famous "16 words" on the subject in that year's State of the Union address.

Mr. Wilson also vehemently denied it when columnist Robert Novak first reported that his wife had played a role in selecting him for the Niger mission. He promptly signed up as adviser to the Kerry campaign and was feted almost everywhere in the media, including repeat appearances on NBC's "Meet the Press" and a photo spread (with Valerie) in Vanity Fair.

But his day in the political sun was short-lived. The bipartisan Senate Intelligence Committee report last July cited the note that Ms. Plame had sent recommending her husband for the Niger mission. "Interviews and documents provided to the Committee indicate that his wife, a CPD [Counterproliferation Division] employee, suggested his name for the trip," said the report.

The same bipartisan report also pointed out that the forged documents Mr. Wilson claimed to have discredited hadn't even entered intelligence channels until eight months after his trip. And it said the CIA interpreted the information he provided in his debrief as mildly supportive of the suspicion that Iraq had been seeking uranium in Niger.

About the same time, another inquiry headed by Britain's Lord Butler delivered its own verdict on the 16 words: "We conclude also that the statement in President Bush's State of the Union Address of 28 January 2003 that 'The British Government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa' was well-founded.

In short, Joe Wilson hadn't told the truth about what he'd discovered in Africa, how he'd discovered it, what he'd told the CIA about it, or even why he was sent on the mission. The media and the Kerry campaign promptly abandoned him, though the former never did give as much prominence to his debunking as they did to his original accusations. But if anyone can remember another public figure so entirely and thoroughly discredited, let us know.

If there's any scandal at all here, it is that this entire episode has been allowed to waste so much government time and media attention, not to mention inspire a "special counsel" probe. The Bush Administration is also guilty on this count, since it went along with the appointment of prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald in an election year in order to punt the issue down the road. But now Mr. Fitzgerald has become an unguided missile, holding reporters in contempt for not disclosing their sources even as it becomes clearer all the time that no underlying crime was at issue.

As for the press corps, rather than calling for Mr. Rove to be fired, they ought to be grateful to him for telling the truth.

TOLERANCE AND ACCEPTANCE FOR PEOPLE OF OTHER CULTURES

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn in the strongest terms possible an ugly and xenophobic comment that recently came to my attention. Yesterday, a staff member who works for another Member of Congress responded to an e-mail inquiry regarding the upcoming visit of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with what can only be described as an insulting and bigoted attempt at humor. His comments were deeply offensive to Indians, Indian Americans, and countless others like me who do not tolerate such bigotry.

On one of my visits to India a few years ago I was able to meet with government officials, including Prime Minister Singh, then a member of the Rajya Sabha, India's Upper House of Parliament. I was deeply impressed by his intellect, thoughtfulness, and the success of his economic program, and I am proud to welcome him as he addresses a Joint Session of Congress this week. It is my hope that all Americans will listen to his words. We have much to learn from him regarding tolerance and acceptance of people of other cultures.

THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN—A HERO'S WELCOME

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome to Capitol Hill today a contingent of veterans representing one of the most distinguished military units in American history. The individuals whom I speak of are known as the Tuskegee Airmen, and they are visiting the Capitol today as part of a 'Tuskegee Airmen Legislative Day'. Many people may see these gentlemen strolling the halls of the Capitol and not know that they are living components of American history who changed this country and its military forever.

The Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and prejudice to win the opportunity to fight for their nation and became one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II. In so doing, they destroyed the racist conceptions of their time, and inspired a generation of Americans to chase their dreams all the way to sky.

Before 1940, African Americans were barred from flying for the U.S. military, just as they were excluded from other aspects of American public and civic life. However, in that year African American airmen won the opportunity to fight for their country as American patriots, though in segregated units. The airmen were trained and stationed in Tuskegee, Alabama, the city which would come to define them and their heroism.

Young men from across the country answered the call to serve, and brought with them not only their own aspirations, but the hopes and dreams of an entire people. Many believed that African Americans did not possess the faculties to be military airmen, and

predicted that the Tuskegee program would fail. However, failure was not an option for these men, and they delivered in amazing fashion.

The Airmen completed 15,500 missions, destroyed 260 enemy aircraft, sank one enemy destroyer, and demolished numerous enemy installations. They would also have the WWII distinction of never losing an American bomber under their escort, despite flying in some of the enemies' most heavily defended areas. During their World War II service, the Airmen would earn 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 744 Air Medals, 8 Purple Hearts, and 14 Bronze Stars.

There is currently an effort underway to bestow the Congressional Gold Medal on the Tuskegee Airmen. I have introduced H.R. 1259 here in the House, and Senator Levin has introduced similar legislation in the Senate. The Gold Medal was created and first

awarded 200 years ago to Americans whose courage and determination in battle exemplified the spirit of our nation. In keeping with that tradition, I can think of no better recipients than the Tuskegee Airmen.

They not only displayed courage and bravery, they changed our military forever. Today, many minority groups, especially African Americans, are overrepresented in the military compared to their numbers in the general population. They are the central core of the volunteer military and serve our nation with heroic distinction in Iraq and through out the world. With the significant role that minorities continue to play in the Armed Forces, our country is indebted to the Tuskegee Airmen for helping to lay that foundation.

Today, the young men who roamed the skies of Tuskegee, Alabama, and World War II Europe, are seasoned veterans of war and life. Many of them are no longer with us, but

the hope and pride that they inspired in all of us are reborn in the hearts and minds of every subsequent generation of Americans. I can attest to the hope they gave to a young kid from Harlem, as he set out to fight in Korea. Their example served me well in that war, and in life.

At a time in our country when we hear a lot of rhetoric about patriotism, we can learn from the example of the Tuskegee Airmen. They fought for their country at a time when the rights they risked their lives to protect did not extend to them. They fought not just for America, but the promise of America—the promise of liberty, equality, and freedom for all people. As long as we aspire to fulfill this promise, so too will the spirit of the Tuskegee Airmen live. Again, I thank the Tuskegee Airmen for all they have done for our country, and I extend this welcome—a hero's welcome—to them.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the *Extensions of Remarks* section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 14, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 15

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the United States' relationship with the World Trade Organization, focusing on the role of the World Trade Organization and its impact on national sovereignty and economic security.

SD-562

JULY 18

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine improving security in Iraq.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Brian David Miller, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, General Services Administration, and Richard L. Skinner, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Edmund S. Hawley, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD-562

JULY 19

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the effects of the U.S. nuclear testing program on the Marshall Islands.

SD-366

Appropriations

Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Business meeting to consider H.R. 3058, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and

independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006.

SD-116

10:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine advancing Iraqi political development.

SH-216

Judiciary

Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine a review of Federal consent decrees.

SD-226

JULY 20

9:30 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider proposed Better Healthcare through Information Technology Act, proposed Medical Device User Fee Stabilization Act of 2005, and pending nominations.

SD-430

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine legislation to resolve Cobell v. Norton. Room to be announced

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine issues and implications relating to reporters' shield legislation.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine biosecurity preparedness and efforts to address agroterrorism threats.

SR-328A

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 703, to provide for the conveyance of certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Nevada to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, S. 997, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest, Montana, to Jefferson County, Montana, for use as a cemetery, S. 1131, to authorize the exchange of certain Federal land within the State of Idaho, S. 1170, to establish the Fort Stanton-Snowy River National Cave Conservation Area, S. 1238, to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to provide for the conduct of projects that protect forests, and H.R. 1101, to revoke a Public Land Order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California.

SD-366

JULY 21

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 1003, to amend the Act of December 22, 1974, relating to Navajo-Hopi land settlement.

SR-485

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the current state of climate change scientific research and the economics of strategies to manage climate change, focusing on the relationship between energy consumption and climate change, new developments in climate change research

and the potential effects on the U.S. economy of climate change and strategies to control greenhouse gas emissions.

SH-216

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine United Nations reform.

SD-419

Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending VA legislation.

SR-418

2 p.m.

Appropriations

Business meeting to consider H.R. 3058, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, H.R. 2863, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, H.R. 2528, making appropriations for military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and proposed legislation making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006.

SD-106

JULY 26

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine how farm bill programs can better support species conservation.

SR-328A

JULY 27

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine Indian Gaming Regulatory Act exceptions and off-reservation gaming.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Conservation Reserve Program.

SR-328A

JULY 28

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101-601).

SR-485

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

345 CHOB